

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An unauthorized usage monitoring system for monitoring unauthorized usage of an image processing device, which performs image processing in response to a request for image processing, comprising:
 - an identification means for identifying a user who requests image processing;
 - a storage means capable of storing information in which the user identified by the identification means is associated with at least a portion of the image data for which the user requested image processing; and
 - a determination means for determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means;wherein the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is set based on a tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device corresponding to an environmental condition to determine whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means.
2. An unauthorized usage monitoring system for monitoring unauthorized usage of an image processing device, which performs image processing in response to a request for image processing, comprising:
 - an identification means for identifying an ID code of a user who requests image processing;
 - a storage means capable of storing information in which the ID code of the user identified by the identification means is associated with at least a portion of the image data for which the user requested image processing; and
 - a determination means for determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means;

wherein the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is set based on a tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device corresponding to an environmental condition to determine whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means.

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3. An unauthorized usage monitoring system for monitoring unauthorized usage of an image processing device, which is configured to be capable of sending and receiving information to and from a monitoring server, comprising:

10 an identification means for identifying a user who requests image processing;

a storage means that is provided in the monitoring server and is capable of storing information in which the user identified by the identification means is associated with at least a portion of the image data for
15 which the user requested image processing; and

a determination means for determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means;

wherein the determination means determines whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means with an information storage
20 ratio that is set based on a tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device corresponding to an environmental condition.

4. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

25 wherein the determination means determines whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means by comparing a set information storage ratio with a random number.

5. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

wherein the environmental condition for setting the information storage ratio is the number of people in a space in which the image processing device is installed, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people in the space in which the image processing device is installed.

6. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 4,

wherein the environmental condition for setting the information storage ratio is the number of people in a space in which the image processing device is installed, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people in the space in which the image processing device is installed.

7. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

wherein the environmental condition for setting the information storage ratio is at least one of a date and a time, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information

storage ratio that is higher for days and times in which “the tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device” is higher.

8. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing
5 devices according to claim 4,

wherein the environmental condition for setting the information storage ratio is at least one of a date and a time, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information
10 storage ratio that is higher for days and times in which “the tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device” is higher.

9. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

15 wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is installed in an office, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning signing in to and signing out from work at the office, and uses an
20 information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people signed in at the office.

10. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 4,

25 wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is installed in an office, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information

storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning signing in to and signing out from work at the office, and uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people signed in at the office.

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11. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is installed in an office, and

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wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning entering and exiting a room at the office, and uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people present in the office.

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12. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 4,

wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is installed in an office, and

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wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning entering and exiting a room at the office, and uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower numbers of people present in the office.

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13. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is connected to an office network, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning the number of currently operating host machines that are connected to the network, and uses an information storage ratio that is
5 higher for lower numbers of currently operating host machines.

14. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 4,

wherein the unauthorized usage monitoring system is connected to an
10 office network, and

wherein, in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means obtains information concerning the number of currently operating host machines that are connected to the network, and uses an information storage ratio that is
15 higher for lower numbers of currently operating host machines.

15. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 13,

wherein, the determination means obtains information concerning
20 the history of image processing requests to the image processing device by host machines connected to the network, recognizes from the history information the frequency of requests for image processing of currently operating host machines other than the host machine that is requesting image processing, and uses an information storage ratio that is higher for
25 lower frequencies of requests for image processing in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means.

16. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 14,

wherein, the determination means obtains information concerning the history of image processing requests to the image processing device by host machines connected to the network, recognizes from the history information the frequency of requests for image processing of currently operating host machines other than the host machine that is requesting image processing, and uses an information storage ratio that is higher for lower frequencies of requests for image processing in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means.

17. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to any of claims 1, 2, and 3,

wherein color imaging or monochrome imaging can be selected in the image processing device, and

wherein in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is higher for the times of performing color imaging than for the times of performing monochrome imaging.

18. The unauthorized usage monitoring system for image processing devices according to claim 4,

wherein color imaging or monochrome imaging can be selected in the image processing device, and

wherein in determining whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means, the determination means uses an information storage ratio that is higher for the times of performing color imaging than for

the times of performing monochrome imaging.

19. A control method that is executed on the unauthorized usage monitoring system of any of claims 1 to 18,

5 wherein a determination operation is performed in which whether or not to carry out information storage to the storage means is determined using an information storage ratio that is set based on a tendency for unauthorized usage of the image processing device corresponding to an environmental condition, and

10 wherein a storage operation is performed in which information in which a user who requested image processing and at least a portion of the image data for which image processing was requested by that user are associated and stored in the storage means when a determination has been made to carry out information storage to the storage means.

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